

Meagre ₹5.9 cr collected in access benefit sharing since 2015 from firms using natural resources; bulk of funds not utilised for biodiversity conservation

NATURAL INJUSTICE

Bengaluru BMC yet to receive funding

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

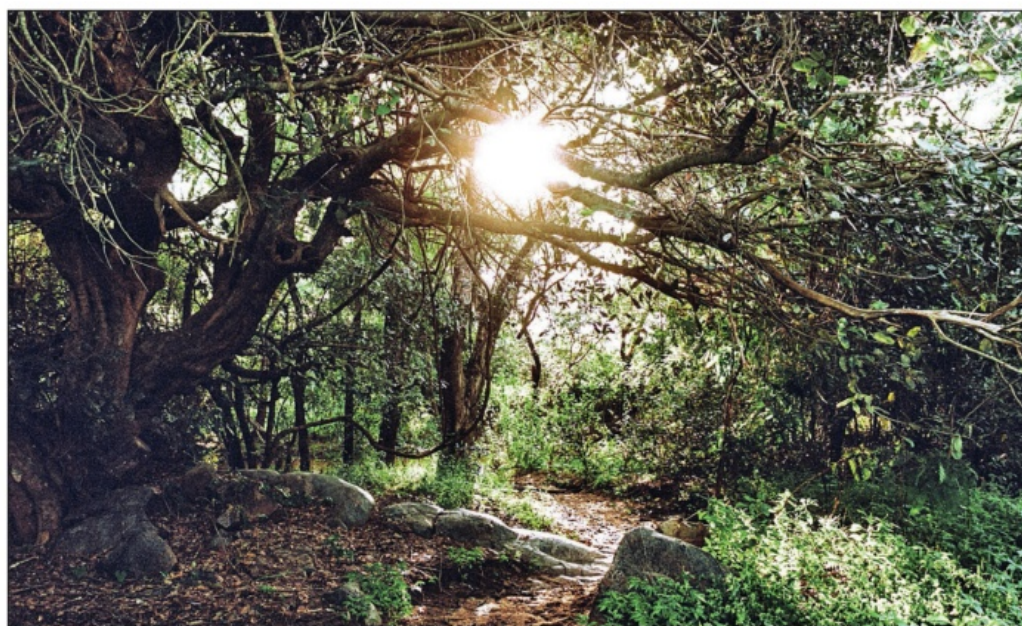
The Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) has signed 401 benefit sharing agreements with traders and manufacturers of herbs and herbal products from 2015 to date.

The board has collected Rs 5.9 crore through these agreements under the Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) scheme of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. However, the majority of this amount is unused.

"Most of the ABS funds that we have generated are lying with us. Although, as per the biodiversity act, 95% of this fund has to be given to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) for conservation work in their respective areas and 5% can be used for the board's maintenance work. So far, we have released Rs 58 lakhs to eight BMCs across Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada and Ballari," said a KBB official.

As per India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002, BMCs have to be set up at the panchayat level. The role of BMCs is to ensure biodiversity conservation in specific areas,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>



Total Ecosystem Supply Value of forest ecosystem in Karnataka is equivalent to 18.1% of GDP... It was Rs 2,91,200 cr in 2019. ABS amount of Rs 5.9 cr in eight years proves there are many using resources, but few are sharing benefits.

— Dr TV Ramachandra, IISc

IN LIMBO

Medical students returned from war-torn Ukraine five months ago say authorities aren't helping with their education



CIVIC SPLURGE

Despite ₹23 cr spent for PM's 1-day visit, potholes remain elsewhere, as only certain stretches given facelift



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3 THINGS TO DO



01 Heat Sink, live

Founded by songwriter/guitarist Chirag Todi, Heat Sink, a 6-piece band, is considered one of the top original English acts in the country. Their compositions blend genres with elements ranging from jazz to progressive rock while deriving influences from artists such as Larry Carlton, Hiatus Kaiyote, Tom Misch and John Mayer. Catch them live for a soulful evening of music. **Where:** Windmills Craftworks, EPIP Zone, Whitefield; **When:** June 24 and 25, 9:30 pm onwards; **Contact:** 08880233322, bookmyshow.com

02 Reflections, and more



The Gallery at Maya, a Slow Living Restaurant and Art Gallery in Jayanagar presents "Reflections" an exhibit of plates serving food for thought. Every plate is a result of dream-like connections and moments. The

pieces are bound to make you pause, feel, and reflect. They convey personal messages and paint a beautiful world to lose yourself in, all leading toward social innovations. The Plated Project's mission is to fight hunger with art. They collaborate with global artists to create unique, art-infused products. Each art piece is crafted thoughtfully to drive conversations, that can culminate in genuine impact.

Where: Maya, Jayanagar 5th block
When: Till June 30, noon to 11 pm
Contact: +91 6363459411 / +91 9731755535

03 Playtime for kids!



After a two-year long hiatus, AHA! International Theatre Festival for Children 2022 is back! With the pandemic plateauing, Ranga Shankara is taking the opportunity to bring our practitioners together to create a festival celebrating children and children's theatre. Five different productions will be put up, from Germany, Switzerland, South Korea and two from India, one of which is a Ranga Shankara production. **Where:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; **When:** June 26 - 30, multiple timings; **Tickets:** Bookmyshow and box office (080 2649 3982)

Evacuated, their studies in limbo & future bleak

Medical students from Ukraine who returned to India five months ago remain anxious and say authorities have not done anything to help them

Saumyangi Yadav
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Almost five months after the Russia-Ukraine war began, medical students who returned to India are still living under a cloud of uncertainty, with grim hopes for the future.

The students were evacuated from the war-torn city of Kharkiv back in March, and since then, they have been attending online classes.

Nineteen-year-old Vavilthota Yuktesh, a first-year medical student from Kharkiv National Medical University in Ukraine, said that nothing has been said or done about their situation lately, either by the state government or by his college authorities.

"There are a few colleges in the state that started a bridge program to help out the students with their practical classes but the colleges were very few, one in Bijapur (Vijayapura) and the other one in Mysore. The number of seats was also very limited," said Yuktesh.

The students have been missing out on their practical classes due to the ongoing crisis.

Back in March 2022, Health and Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar had announced that the Karnataka government would temporarily accommodate around 700 Ukraine-returned medical students in 60 medical colleges across the state. However, the students are still waiting



Many students have met government officials but nothing constructive has been done (file pic)

to be transferred.

Shwetha Kumar, 21, another student from Kharkiv National Medical University, said that the authorities at her university have advised the students to just focus on completing the semester for now.

"We have had a few months of online classes now but we are not sure about what is next. We could be taking transfers to Indian universities or other foreign universities, or we could just continue at our university online... Nothing concrete as of now."

The students said that they are depending more on their university than on the state government. "The government has been saying that talks are going on about the matter but we are not too sure. People in charge of us back in Ukraine have told us that they are talk-

There are a few colleges that started a bridge programme but seats are very limited

— Vavilthota Yuktesh

ing to other foreign officials and universities to get us transferred," added Shwetha.

In an email received from their university coordinators, the students were recently informed that there is a hearing in the Supreme Court of India on June 29 regarding the returnees from Ukraine, where the details about their transfers will also be given. The anxious students were advised to wait until the hearing is over for further confirmations.

Back in March, the students were also given an option to transfer to medical colleges in Hungary and Georgia by their university in Kharkiv. However, even that process seems to be uncertain for now.

Another issue with this is that the colleges in Georgia and Hungary cost almost double the medical colleges in Ukraine. The average tuition fee for Hungarian medical colleges is somewhere around US\$10,000, which is similar to what one would pay for Indian medical seats.

On the other hand, the colleges in Ukraine cost \$5,000-\$6,000 (Rs 3 to 5 lakh). Many students will be re-attempting the NEET-UG examination for seeking admissions to Indian colleges and will have to repeat a year, Shwetha said. Others have shifted their courses altogether. The Directorate of Medical Education, Karnataka was unavailable for a comment on the situation.

IKEA to invest ₹3,000 cr in Karnataka

Home accessories and furniture giant IKEA will officially open doors from 10 am on Wednesday. The Nagasandra Store is IKEA's fourth store in India. Susanne Pulverer, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer at IKEA India, said, "We have committed to a long-term investment of Rs 3,000 crore in Karnataka. The Bengaluru facility is spread over 12.2 acres with 4,60,000 sq ft of commercial space making it the biggest IKEA store in the country."

She added that IKEA has employed 1,000 co-workers with 72 per cent local workers and plans to hire more people from the local neighbourhood. "We believe in empowering women." Anje Heim, Market Manager, IKEA Nagasandra, added that IKEA aims to offer home furnishing solutions that match the dreams of many for a better everyday life.



Vocal for local

IKEA said that 27 per cent of products in the city stores are locally sourced. "IKEA works with five suppliers in Karnataka. One of them is an IKEA social entrepreneur, Industree, based out of Karnataka, who is working with

close to 1,000 local artisans – making sofas, upholstery, armchairs, furniture, plastic, and metal articles," an IKEA spokesperson said.

Bengaluru loves the outdoors

Heim said, "In Bengaluru, we have seen that a lot of importance is given to outer space because we have seen many people having balconies here. Many of our customers in the city are those who go shopping with families. We know that there are many needs for kids especially when they are growing up. Hence, we are working on items that will provide storage solutions, give ideas about storage space if you have toddlers, school kids or slightly elderly children."

"We will reach out to communities. We already have some ideas and will reach out for a dialogue with schoolkids and find solutions for a better everyday life." — Ishika Mittal

₹23 crore spent for 1-day Modi visit

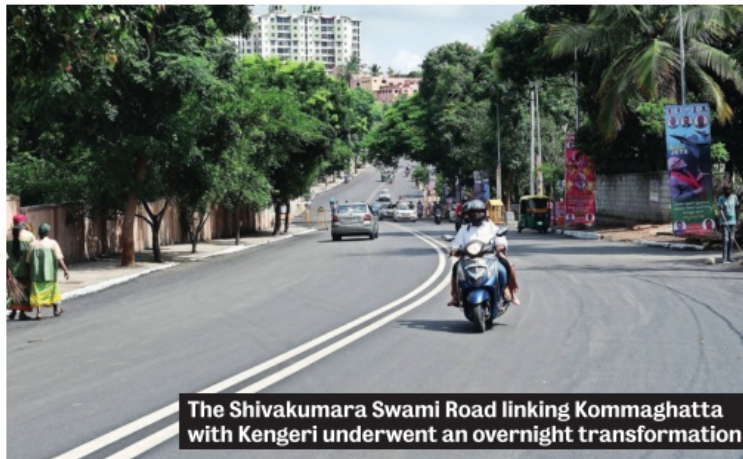
But most potholes remain as they were as only roads where VVIP convoy would pass were given facelift

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) which always claims it is short of funds to take up developmental work has spent a whopping Rs 23 crore to give a facelift to roads for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's one-day trip to the city. Modi landed at the Yelahanka air base, visited IISc, headed to Kommaghatta to address a rally and announce a few projects. From here, he was off to Mysuru.

To give Bengaluru a new look, BBMP asked its personnel to work day and night for the last one week to ensure that the 14-km road length which Modi travelled on got a makeover. According to BBMP, Rs 2.06 crore was spent to give a facelift to 2.4 km of Kempegowda International Airport Road, Rs 1.55 crore for 0.9 km of Tumakuru Road, Rs 6.05



The Shivakumara Swami Road linking Kommaghatta with Kengeri underwent an overnight transformation

crore for 3.06 km of Bangalore University Road, Rs 35 lakh for 0.15 km of Mysuru Road and Rs 11.5 crore for upgrading a seven-kilometre stretch of Kommaghatta Road.

BBMP's Special Commissioner

Ravindra PN said, "It is our duty to fix the roads which the PM is visiting. The amount for the road works was drawn from the BBMP Chief Commissioner's discretionary quota. Prior permission was also taken from

Rakesh Singh, who is the BBMP Administrator as well as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Urban Development Department. As per the upgradation project, the roads were asphalted along with the service roads (wherever available), the medians were cleaned and beautified, kerb stones were painted and street lights were fixed. We took up the project one week before the PM's visit so that all the works were completed before he arrived."

However, citizens want all areas in the city to be treated with the same kind of attention. "In the last few weeks, we have seen the areas where VVIPs visit. Many roads got a facelift when President Ramnath Kovind visited. This was followed by PM Modi's visit. BBMP has proved that if it wants to fix the roads, it can do it at very short notice. Now, we want to know why the other roads which are in a bad shape are not fixed at the

same speed," said Kishore Nanda, a techie. Sukumar R, a college student said, it was strange that for the last few years, the civic agency had failed to make Bengaluru free of potholes. He said it seems only VVIPs can make the BBMP work. So far, BBMP has failed multiple times in meeting the self imposed deadlines to fill up potholes.

Reacting to this, Ravindra said that so far the BBMP has identified 15,679 potholes (based on the official entries in the Fix My Street app). Of this, 14,263 have been filled up. "We are unable to fill potholes on time due to incessant rainfall. If we have dry conditions, then we could have completed the road on time," he said. However, when asked how the BBMP completed the fresh asphalt for Modi's visit despite rainfall, he said, "Filling potholes is a tedious job but it is always easier to go for asphaltting the entire road."



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Good news for cyclists!

DULT all set to introduce unique 2.5 m wide bi-directional cycle lanes

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In an effort to improve the cycling lane network, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) is piloting a bi-directional cycle lane on SK temple road in Doddanekundi.

As part of this pilot project, three unique designs have been chosen for testing, and the remaining lanes will also come up in the same area. A 1.5 km stretch of road has been chosen in Doddanekundi to test the designs.

One might have seen the protected cycle lane on Outer Ring Road (ORR) with two unidirectional lanes on both sides, but now DULT is looking at a bi-directional lane where cyclists will be travelling in two directions and the cycle lane will be present only on one side. These cycle lanes are slightly wider than the usual, each lane being 2.5 metres wide. Usually, the lanes are on both sides of the road with a width of 1.5 metres each.

The design could be useful in narrow stretches where demarcating two cycle lanes is not feasible.

The cycle lane is separated by unique X-shaped separators, different from the long plastic bollards on the ORR stretch.

"As part of the Suma Doddanekundi project, we received a proposal to construct a lane in this area. We held a bicycle separator challenge and selected three designs. DULT provided a grant ranging from 18 lakhs to 20 lakhs, and based on our requirements, the teams designed the separators," said DULT Commissioner, Manjula V.

She further informed that one of the designs has already been in-



The X-shaped separators, if placed closely, will make it impossible for motorists to enter the lanes

stalled for a stretch of 500 m on SK Temple road.

The new lane will prove helpful to students cycling to school.

"The stretch starts at Gopalan School and all of them cycle to school every day. While a protected lane on both sides is not possible, a bi-directional lane will provide a safe community to these students," said Co-founder of Sensing Local, Sobia Rafiq, sensing locals have been playing a crucial role in bringing up cycling infrastructure in Doddanekundi.

Speaking about the unique design of the bicycle separator, Co-founder of Elemental Motor Works,

We held a bicycle separator challenge and selected three designs. DULT provided a grant ranging from 18 to 20 lakhs

—Manjula V, DULT Commissioner

the designing company of the X-shaped separators, Piyush Verma, said, "As part of the challenge, we were supposed to design the separators that prevent water-logging, remain theft-proof (metal-free), have

a low carbon footprint. While it's made from recycled plastic, it provides less incentive for theft. The X design also allows cyclists to slide outside, but would deter motorists from entering the lane as they would have to take a sharp turn."

The separators have been placed closely and would make it nearly impossible for motorists to enter the lane. They are designed in a way that the angle of the X can be changed and the height is also adjustable. "The yellow stripes on the separators are reflectors and with 50 per cent reflective coating. They will be visible at night as well," he added.

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Lights please Cunningham Road



None of the streetlights here in Cunningham Road are functioning for the past one month making it very difficult for motorists.

Clean the road Shantala Nagar



Construction debris dumped three months ago at Langford Gardens Corner, Ward no 111, Shantala Nagar. It has not been cleared despite notices and calls to BBMP.

Citizens bat for better civic body coordination

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It is perhaps the brazen digging of roads on regular intervals by one city agency or the other that has made over 80 per cent of voters feel that the need of the hour is more coordination between them.

They feel that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and civic agencies such as Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company, Bengaluru

Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation need to join hands to ensure better local governance.

In the survey conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy to gauge public perception on local governance, issues that affect the quality of life, their expectation from the upcoming BBMP elections, city budget, and city issues, 23 per cent of the people cited pedestrian infrastructure as the most significant issue. This was followed by 20 per cent who cited garbage

collection, 16 per cent who said traffic congestion, and 15 per cent who spoke for clean water.

Using stratified random sampling methodology, 503 people from 27 wards belonging to eight zones were asked 29 questions. The survey was conducted between December 16, 2021 and January 2, 2022, and included people from different ages and socio-economic groups.

89 per cent of Bengaluru voters were concerned about environmental issues and climate change, yet only 25 per cent of voters feel that

corporators accord environmental issues noteworthy significance. Only 17 per cent of those surveyed knew the name of the last Mayor, while 97 per cent of voters knew the Prime Minister's name, and 83 per cent knew the Chief Minister's name.

Using stratified random sampling methodology, 503 people from 27 wards belonging to eight zones of Bengaluru were asked 29 questions

Released on Tuesday, the survey showed that first-time voters were eager to vote in the upcoming BBMP elections. Their main concern was tackling climate change, and 88 per cent of them believe strong local governance is the key to a better future for Bengaluru.

Srinivas Alavilli, Head of Civic Participation at Janaagraha, said, "Voters of Bengaluru are waiting for the BBMP elections. We tried to understand the degree of awareness citizens have about BBMP, particularly the first-time voters. The results showed that very few understand the role of BBMP, ward corporators, or Ward Committees, but are keen to vote and want civic polls to be conducted on the basis of everyday issues that affect them. We appeal

to the political parties to present a compelling vision for our city and seek votes."

Sapna Karim of Janaagraha said, "While a large percentage of citizens and voters of Bengaluru may not fully yet understand the nature of ward level governance, it is clear that their expectations from the BBMP and the new council that will be formed is to ensure there are walkable footpaths, clean neighbourhoods, an efficient commute, access to clean water, and there is a focus on mitigating negative impact on climate and environment, among other civic issues.

She said the pandemic has proven that decentralisation of governance through Ward Committees and bringing government closer to the citizens brought merit. This, she said, was evident from the significant number of Ward committee meetings taking place in the city.

"However, the BBMP has to build its capacity and resources to strengthen the platform of Ward Committees, deepen citizen engagement and through that fulfil citizens' aspirations," she further said.

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Kayaking Association conducts special yoga session on water

Floating yoga

On the occasion of International Yoga Day, the Kayaking Association conducted a special yoga session on water. Along with the rest of Bengaluru, the association held a yoga session on the ground on Tuesday, but to showcase their expertise with water, the association decided to hold a session on water as well. The yoga session on the water was conducted for the kayaking athletes who practise in the Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake in KR Puram.

Captain Dilip Kumar, Secretary of Kayaking and Canoeing Association of Karnataka, said, "As water sports athletes, we want to do something related to water. Nineteen players took part in the session using two dragon boats.

Each dragon boat can accommodate 10 members."

He said as they practise regularly on the boats, the athletes have good balance. "So, it was easy for us to do yoga on boats. Since the players had to stand and maintain balance, we installed minor supports in the lake but the boat was not anchored." Earlier, the athletes would struggle to practise in the Yele Mallappa Shetty kere due to the excessive growth of weeds. But the association said the weeds have been displaced by the recent rains. "We have also received principal approval for funds from a company as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility to take up lake rejuvenation," he added.

—Melvin Mathew

PM: YOGA BRINGS PEACE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed Yoga along with thousands of participants at a mass demonstration in the backdrop of the iconic Mysuru Palace here on Tuesday and said the physical fitness regime was forming a basis for cooperation among countries, and that it can become a problem-solver.

Leading the main event of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) here, Modi said Yoga brings peace to our universe and gave the hope of a healthy life to humanity.

"Yoga brings peace for us, the peace from Yoga is not only for individuals, Yoga brings peace to our society, nation, the world and the universe," Modi said.



In B'luru, BSF personnel strike yogic pose of valour and grace

PICS: KAUSHIK JN



BSF personnel performing yoga on International Yoga Day at Freedom Park on Tuesday

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, AIRA N SHET aged about 19 years, R/at No. A-101, Aakruthi Silverline Apartment, 27th Main, Somasundrapalya, Near Power Grid, HSR Layout Sector2, Bangalore- 560102, have changed my name to AIRA SHET vide affidavit dated:21/6/2022 Before Notary M.K. Devaki Bangalore.

I, MADHURA MESTRY D/o Waman Ganpat Mestry residing at No.4C3, Guesture, Alta Vista, Electronic City, Bangalore -560100 have changed my name to MADHURA WAMAN MESTRY vide affidavit dated 21.06.2022 sworn before notary Renuka .C, Bangalore.

I S. K. Viswanathan S/o. P. S. Krishna Reddy R/a Peelavara Village, Srinivasasandra Post, KGF-563121. I have changed my name to S. K. VISWANATH Vide affidavit dated: 02/06/2022. Sworn before Notary : Thangaraj. S.

I, Dazzle Reuben Suriyakumar W/o Kanagasabapathy V R/o G1, Tower 2, Mana Tropical, Chikkanayakanahalli, Off Sarjapur road, Bengaluru 560035 have changed my name to Dazzle Reuben .

I, Muneera D/O A Sanaulla R/at 27 3rd Main MM Lay KB Sandra blore-32 have changed my name to Muneera Begum for all purposes.

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Hotel raid: 150 guests issued notices

As netizens wonder if 2 women actors earlier held were treated harshly in comparison

Bellie.Thomas
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

Bengaluru police are on the lookout for one or more peddlers who had discarded drugs next to a dustbin at a party inside a 5-star hotel.

The police said they had recovered seven tablets of MDMA and five grams of marijuana near the dustbin and invoked sections 20-A and 22-B under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

The Halasuru police had obtained the guest list from the event organisers and have issued notices to more than 100 guests in the party including models, celebrities, businessmen, and entrepreneurs.

"We have segregated a list of people from the list including several women whom we suspect could have been involved in peddling and consumption of drugs at the party. We have issued notices to each one of them. Around six people have already appeared before us for questioning and their statements have been recorded. We are also in the process of identifying people in the party close to Siddhant Kapoor, the DJ in the party, who has been booked as the prime accused along with four others," a senior police officer said.

Police are also taking a look at the communications between Siddhant Kapoor and the guests, including four others who had been arrested, and are going through their messages and phone calls to establish if they were into drug peddling, police sources said.



Siddhant Kapoor coming out after a day-long interrogation at Halasuru Police Station recently

Meanwhile, social media was abuzz with fiery debates discussing the double standards of city police when it came to arresting the two female actors Sanjana Galrani and Ragini Dwivedi and sending them to jail for more than two weeks, while Siddhant Kapoor was sent home on a station bail the same day he was detained.

There were also rumours doing rounds on social media that the police had received calls from top authorities to hush up the case as Siddhant Kapoor is the son of Bollywood actor Shakti Kapoor and the brother of actor Shraddha Kapoor, and belongs to quite an influential family.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Division Bhimashankar Guled told Bangalore Mirror that Siddhant was booked for consumption of drugs and in his case, there was nothing available on record or to establish that he was into peddling.

"However, I am told that in the drug case involving the two women

"We are also in the process of identifying people in the party close to Siddhant Kapoor, the DJ in the party"

—Senior police officer

actors, the police claimed to have evidence through chats that revealed they could have been involved in peddling. Hence, they were booked under 22-B of the NDPS Act. Anyway, I am not the investigating officer and I am not privy to that case details and it would be wrong on my part to comment on that case," Guled told BM.

As per the section 27-B under the NDPS Act, it is the discretion of the police officer whether to offer the accused a station bail as he is just a consumer.

"We have also invoked sections 20-A and 22-B because we found certain drugs lying next to a dust-

bin in the party and we are in the process of identifying who dumped those drugs," Guled pointed out.

"We were given a free hand in the investigation into this case and there were no calls from anyone as claimed. The case details were being updated with both my Additional Commissioner and the City Police Commissioner who were convinced that no drugs were found on his body which attracts the peddler's section of 22-A. This is why he (Siddhant Kapoor) was treated as a consumer and whatever the due course of the law enlists will be followed," he added.

One of the two Sandalwood actors who were previously arrested for their alleged involvement in a drug case, called up the DCP and congratulated for doing a 'fair, unbiased job' and urged him to keep up the good work.

"We are clear on controlling the drug menace in the city and we will do whatever it takes as per law," Guled said.

Get, set, booster-ready

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) door-to-door campaign advocating for precautionary doses for Bengalureans 60 or above has finally started. While the campaign was supposed to kick off in the first week of June, it got delayed due to the recently completed sero-survey involving unvaccinated children in the age group of 6-12 years.

A BBMP official said that the programme would be accelerated to make up for the delay. "We plan to accelerate the coverage among the vulnerable population. We have been directed to scale up the precautionary dose vaccination and the door-to-door campaign will help us achieve that."

Under the program, officials will visit individual houses to inoculate those above 60 years of age with the booster dose. Officials will be checking for individuals in this age group who have completed nine months after the second jab. These individuals are being contacted and the officials are trying to convince them to get the booster dose as soon as possible.

Despite the vaccine being available free of cost for the elderly, not many have come forward to take it.

According to official data, only about 36 per cent of the population above 60 years has received the booster dose. While around 9.5 lakh individuals in this age group received their second dose of the vaccine, only about 3.5 lakh have received the precautionary dose so far.

"We have covered all eligible people in the age group of 60 and above with the first and the second dose of vaccine. The door-to-door campaign will speed up the inoculation of precautionary doses in this age group too," said the official.

When it comes to the age group of 18-59, only about 2.2 lakh individuals have taken the booster shot in the city so far.

The drive was planned by the BBMP after the centre announced launching a two-month, door-to-door campaign to accelerate the coverage of booster jabs.

—BMB

Diganth injured while on holiday



Diganth at Manipal Hospital

Well-known Kannada actor Diganth sustained injuries during a family holiday in Goa. He was airlifted to a Bengaluru hospital on Tuesday. Sources said when Diganth and his family members were camping in Goa a few days ago, he hurt his neck while performing a somersault. His family rushed him to a private hospital in Goa. But, as doctors suggested further treatment, his family decided to airlift him. Doctors from Manipal Hospital said, "Diganth was brought to the hospital at 4.30 pm. He had sustained a sports injury." Diganth's friend and director Yograj Bhat said Diganth had slipped during the somersault. "There is nothing to worry as doctors have suggested a minor surgery. He will be alright in a few days. I spoke to him and he is fine." —BMB

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Cost of exploiting nature

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mapped and documented in People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR).

Nagoya Protocol

India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, a supplementary agreement ratified by the country in 2014, under which, the users of biological resources are supposed to share a percentage of profits with local communities. This percentage of profit, known as Access Benefit Sharing (ABS), must be disbursed to local BMCs for biodiversity conservation purposes or to promote the livelihoods of local people from where natural resources were accessed.

While the biodiversity board has funds lying unused for BMCs activities, the Bengaluru BMC is yet to receive any funding to get started with its activities. BMC members told BM that while they had submitted a proposal to procure funding under the local municipal body, no fund has been allocated yet.

"We submitted the proposal to the BBMP to procure funding for our activities. It was up to the BBMP to reach out to the biodiversity board with a funding proposal under access benefit sharing. It just shows the lack of will to implement any biodiversity conservation work," said Akshay Heblikar, a member of Bengaluru BMC.

However, the biodiversity board said ABS rules were ratified only in 2014 and the officials are still learning the ropes. "The rules are still new to us as well as the companies that are utilising natural resources for commercial purposes. The board is soon convening an expert committee meeting to discuss the dispersal of funds," said a technical staff of KBB.

The member secretary of KBB remained unavailable to comment despite many attempts from BM.

Fund generation

While the ABS money collected is yet to be utilised, experts said, Rs 5.9 crore in eight years is a small amount. According to TV Ramachandra of Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science, the Total Ecosystem Supply Value of the forest ecosystem in Karnataka is equivalent



to 18.1% of the GDP.

"While there has been a degradation of supply value of the state's forest ecosystem since 2005, we calculated it to be Rs 2,91,200 crore in 2019. The ABS amount of Rs 5.9 crore in eight years only proves that while there are many using the resources, very few are sharing the benefits. The big players are still flouting the rules and escaping. We need to come up with a proper mechanism so that pilferages are addressed," said Dr Ramachandra.

However, as per the state biodiversity board, a low amount of access benefit sharing money is due to non-

compliance on part of the companies.

"We have sent notices of non-compliance to around 200 companies, most of them from Bengaluru. We have been writing letters to these companies and asking them to submit Form I. They are supposed to provide information regarding the usage of natural resources in the form and seek permission before moving ahead and using the resources. However, there are many defaulters," said an official.

The board said the companies are mostly unaware of the Nagoya Protocol and regulations under it.

"The companies that are sharing the benefits are those that are aware of the regulations. We have conducted workshops for these companies in the past and we are planning to conduct a few more over the coming months to spread awareness," the KBB official told BM.

Experts disagree

"With 21st century surveillance mechanisms at our disposal, it is difficult to understand so much non-

"We submitted the proposal to the BBMP to procure funding for our activities. It was up to BBMP to reach out to the board with a funding proposal under access benefit sharing"

compliance. The biggest loophole of the system is a lack of monitoring at the ground level due to inadequate staff. We need more foot soldiers keeping an eye on natural resources and illegal extraction; activate Village Forest Committees (VFCs) that can rejuvenate and restore degraded forest patches by involving local people. How do these restrictions work beautifully in the case of researchers?" wondered Dr Ramachandra.

Money break-up		
Year	Number of Agreements	ABS Money received (in Rs)
2015-16	94	19,23,470
2016-17	69	15,97,530
2017-18	45	56,74,856
2018-19	71	1,68,99,644
2019-20	45	82,67,060
2020-21	38	1,43,54,771
2021-22	39	96,55,086

Cloud over Hotels' Association polls

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru District Cooperative Societies Registrar has directed Karnataka State Hotels' Association secretary to conduct elections for the executive committee as per the by-laws of the association. This comes after several allegations were made of conducting the elections illegally.

"It is the responsibility of the governing council to conduct elections for the executive committee. An election observer should be appointed 45 days before the end of the governing council's term.

But the secretary of the association conducted elections for the executive committee instead of conducting it as per Section 17.02 of the association. This leads to suspicion and is also illegal as per the law," the Registrar of Bengaluru District Cooperative Societies said in the order.

The Registrar stated that the president and secretary of the association were making allegations against each other and there was a lack of coordination among the members of the governing council. "I want the election for the executive committee to be conducted as per the by-law," said the Registrar.

Krishna Raju, a member of the association, said that election to the

executive committee should be held in a free and fair atmosphere. "Around 20 members should be elected to the executive committee from Bengaluru but the secretary did not follow the norms while selecting the members," said Raju.

As per whims and fancies?

HS Prabhakar, a senior member of the association who lodged a complaint with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, alleged that the secretary selected members to the executive committee as per his whims. "The secretary did not conduct an election for selecting members for the executive committee. He

selected the members against the norms," complained Prabhakar.

'Delay due to pandemic'

However, Madhukar M Shetty, Secretary, Karnataka State Hotels Association, denied all such claims, stating that he had followed the norms while constituting the executive committee.

"The election was delayed for a year due to the pandemic. We gave a three-month notice for conducting an election to the executive committee. Yes, we have received a letter from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies. We have also sent a reply to that letter," he added.

Let's call them up

A helpline number to help address civic issues in city

I Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) has come up with a helpline number for citizens to resolve civic issues in their respective wards. 080 47190000, is the helpline number. This is done in an effort to address unresolved civic issues like potholes, sludgy roads, fallen branches owing to recent rains.

Once the backend team notes the civic problem and the locality, the issue is then forwarded to the BNP team located in the specific ward, who will further escalate the issue to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) ward engineers.

Lalithamba BV, core working group member of BNP said, "We will take prompt action, because we believe in getting work done. As we are actively involved in the ward and zonal meetings of the citizens with BBMP officials. We are regularly in touch with the officials." Issues involving other departments like BWSSB and BESCOM will also be taken up and forwarded to the officials. They also have an email id to report the issues. "One can even email at info@nammabnp.org about the civic problem. BNP has tracked ward meetings and has encouraged ward residents to play an active role in them. This is to ensure that every rupee is well spent within their respective wards," added Lalithamba.

The BNP team said that though Rs 20,000 crore has been spent on road construction in the last five years, most roads are in a pathetic state.

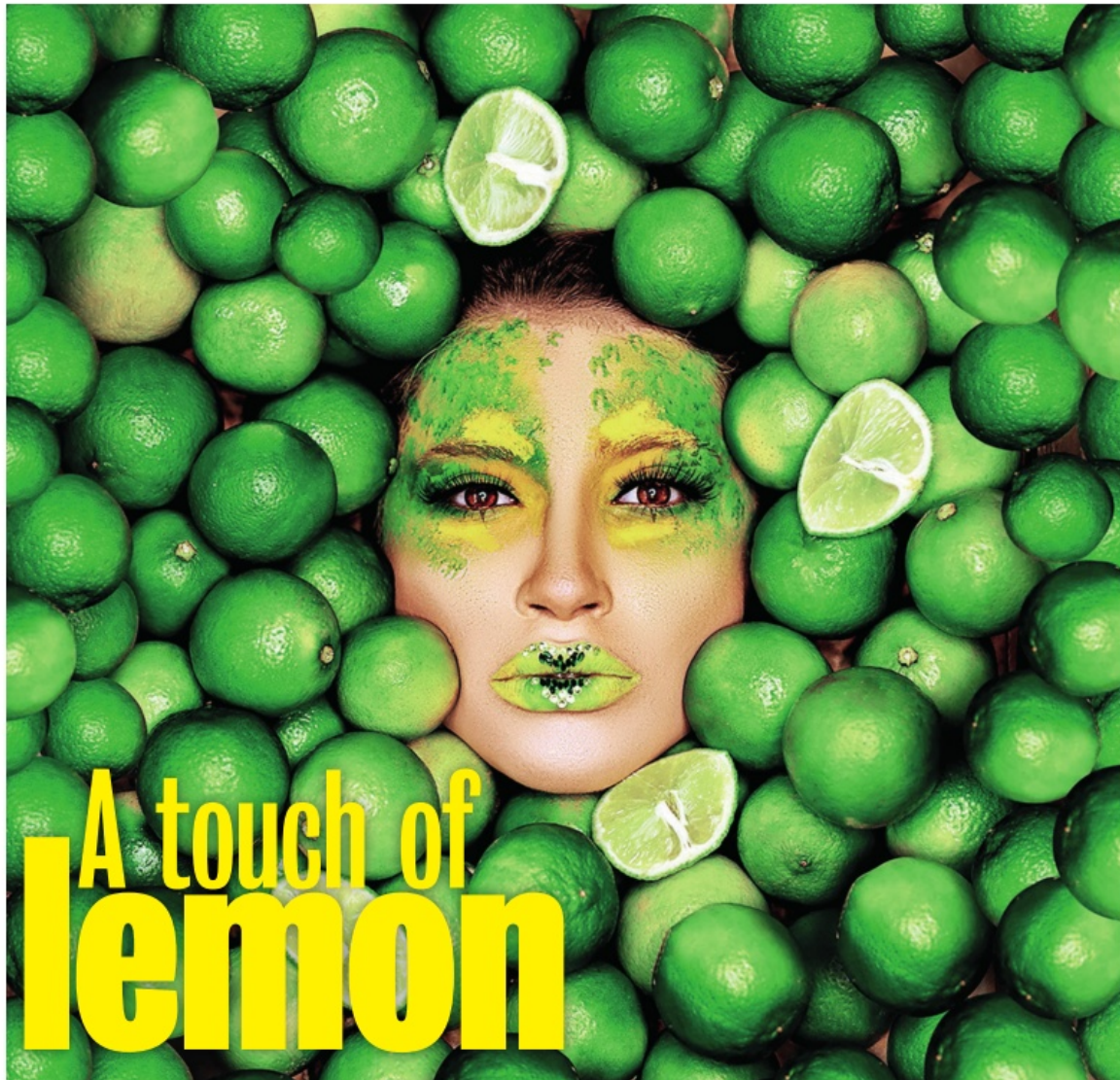
Citizens said the BBMP Sahaaya app has not worked well for them. "Inspite of the number of complaints made on the road condition at Pottery Town, it remains unsolved. Apps like these should help citizens in resolving complaints," said Adithya Mahesh, resident of SK Garden.

Illegal telephone exchange used for spying busted

An illegal telephone exchange that allegedly converted foreign calls into local ones to aid spying activities in the country has been busted by the military intelligence and Bengaluru Police, officials said on Tuesday.

A 41-year-old man hailing from Kerala's Wayanad district, identified as Sharafudeen, has been detained during the joint operation by the two agencies. The man is alleged to have placed several mobile SIM cards into electronic devices at four locations in Bagalgunte main road area in the Karnataka capital.

Officials said the illegal activity "defrauded" the telecom department and posed a threat to the security of the country. **PTI**



Dos & don'ts of using citrus fruit on your skin

Anvita Mittal
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Fans say dabbing a little lemon juice on a pimple will dry it right up and rubbing your face with a lemon wedge will brighten your skin. Lemons cost less than a dollar while Vitamin C serums cost lots (and lots) of dollars. Sounds like the perfect substitute right?

But hold up.

Nature is powerful and substances that are A-OK to eat or

drink might not always be safe to put directly on your skin.

You'll see plenty of Instagram, Pinterest posts and DIY recipes on blogs that recommend using lemon juice for everything – from wrinkles to whiteheads to sunspots and more. And while, Vitamin C is a popular ingredient in skin care products, thanks to its potent antioxidant properties. Be cautious in trying internet-given home remedies.

Keep reading to find out why you might want to save lemons for your water.

First Up, Why Are People Putting Lemon On Their Skin?

Well, lemon juice does contain some properties that are seemingly great for your skin, including

alpha hydroxyl acid – which can remove dull skin cells and generate newer ones, working as a type of exfoliant. Lemons can also:

Help reduce blackheads from forming by breaking down the accumulation of dead skin cells

Help treat acne by reducing inflammation and oil production

Help lessen discoloration and scarring

But (the BIG but), there's a difference between the lemon juice in your favourite skin care products and swiping a slice across your T-zone.

It's Just Lemon Juice. What's The Worst That Could Happen?

Glad you asked. The most common reaction to using lemon juice is skin irritation. It could be

mild, but it could also be severe for people with sensitive skin. Since lemon juice is highly acidic at 2pH, it can cause permanent damage to your skin. It can change the natural pH of your acid mantle, potentially causing skin irritation, hyperpigmentation and sensitivity to the sun. That's not even the worst of it. You could end up like Samantha from Sex and the City after an overzealous chemical peel.

Here are the two scariest complications: Phytophotodermatitis

Just because something is natural doesn't mean it's harmless. Mix citrus juice with sunlight, and you end up with margarita burn – officially known as phytophotodermatitis. It's called margarita burn because you can get it from drinking margaritas (or beer with lime wedges) on the beach. That's why, read the label on your vitamin C serum. It'll likely always remind you that SPF is must after use!

Chemical Leukoderma

Diluting lemon juice might reduce your risk, but it can still cause major issues. Homemade toner made with lemon juice, alcohol and glycerine landed one woman in the hospital – A 22 year old from Melbourne, Australia. She whipped up the beauty product to treat freckles and dark spots on her face, but ended up with chemical leukoderma.

Caused by repeated exposure to certain chemical compounds – including those in lemon juice – this condition left her with uneven white spots that can be permanent. Yikes!

How To Use Lemon Juice Safely?

OK, so you still want to try it?

These are a few ways dermatologists suggest you could try –

Always do a patch test on the sides of your neck, or elbows.

Always dilute lemon juice with rose water or honey before applying it on your face (patch test these combos too)

SPF is a must after you apply any form of Vitamin C

If you are opting for lemon juice, dermatologists recommend using fresh lemon juice because the concentration of Vitamin C in lemons reduces overtime.



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My son is only 18 months old, but I'm thinking of leaving my husband. The only thing that's keeping me in the marriage at the moment is the baby because it breaks my heart every time I think about him not living with his dad. My husband isn't a bad person, but he's just not here for me. He works a lot and goes out a lot, so I'm left to do everything. I've spent so long silently resenting him that I've lost respect and fallen out of love. I'm worried about being judged if I leave and having to start again. My husband has no idea I'm having these thoughts, although he must know I'm unhappy as we barely speak unless it's to snap at each other. Please help.

COLEEN SAYS

Listen, everyone worries about being judged, but this is your life and you can't stay in an unhappy marriage because you're worried about what other people think. First of all, talk to your husband – silently resenting him won't get you anywhere. Open a discussion. However, keep in mind that having a young baby puts pressure on your relationship for all different kinds of reasons – exhaustion, responsibility, having little time for each other, putting your marriage and sex life to the bottom of the pile, and so on.

So, there might be a way back from it with time and effort. Instead of running to a solicitor to file for divorce, why not separate for a while and see how you get on? I understand your worries about your son – when my first marriage was ending, I used to cry myself to sleep about my sons being from a broken home but, actually, they were living in a broken home. And when the marriage did end, their dad made a huge effort.

As long as you don't do anything to jeopardise that relationship and encourage it, your son's routines won't have to change that much.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study reveals breathing in polluted air contributes to neurological damage

A new study has revealed that breathing in polluted air could lead to toxic particles being transported from the lungs to the brain. The research has been done by a team of experts from the University of Birmingham and research institutions in China and the findings were published in a journal by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

According to the study, the toxic particles travel via the bloodstream that could potentially contribute to brain disorders and neurological damage. Scientists



have discovered a possible direct path used by various inhaled fine particles. These toxins travel

through blood circulation with indications that, once there, the particles stay longer in the brain than in other main metabolic organs.

The researchers uncovered they had found many fine particles in human cerebrospinal liquids taken from patients who had encountered brain disorders – uncovering a process which might bring about harmful particulate substances winding up in the brain.

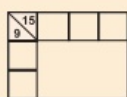
Iseult Lynch, Co-author Professor from the University

of Birmingham said, "There are gaps in our knowledge around the harmful effects of airborne fine particles on the central nervous system. This work sheds new light on the link between inhaling particles and how they subsequently move around the body. The data suggests that up to eight times the number of fine particles may reach the brain by travelling, via the bloodstream, from the lungs than pass directly via the nose – adding new evidence on the relationship between air pollution and the detrimental effects of such particles on the brain."

—ANI

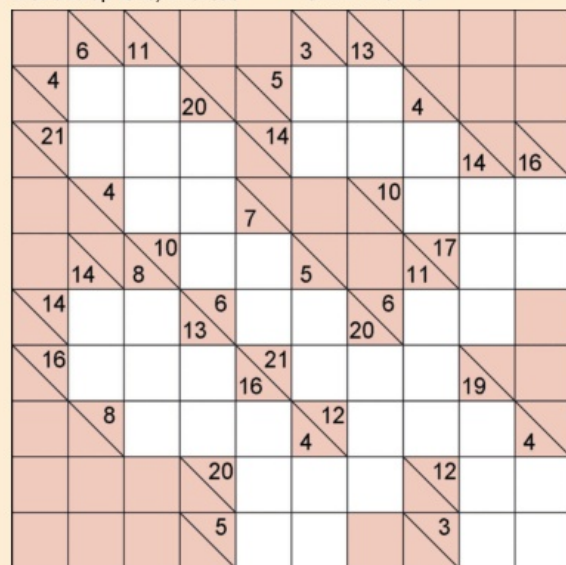
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

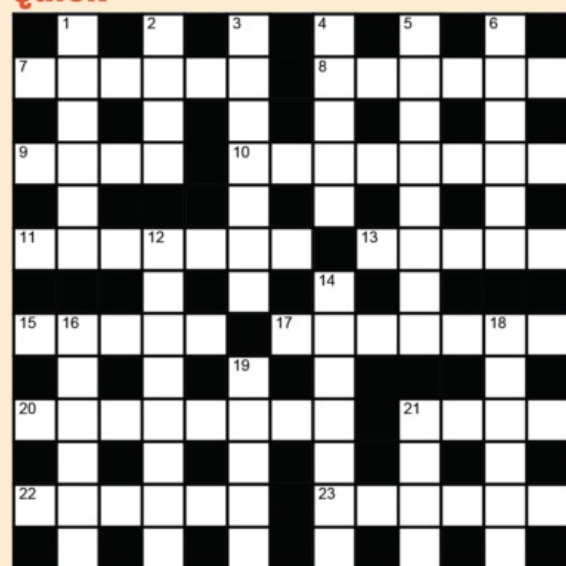


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 B in BARC? (6)
- 8 _____ with : began to associate with? (4,2)
- 9 Units of work (4)
- 10 Low fat flesh (4,4)
- 11 Barking sharply (7)
- 13 Verity (5)
- 15 Rebuke or berate (5)
- 17 Dominion, sway (7)
- 20 Guard animal (8)
- 21 Soaks flex or hemp in water (4)
- 22 Prove to be false (6)
- 23 Bodily damage (6)

DOWN

- 1 Nepalese porter (6)
- 2 IIM grads. (4)
- 3 Sweetheart (7)
- 4 Drinking-tube (5)
- 5 Utter nonsense! (8)
- 6 Middle Eastern country (6)
- 12 Al fresco bar at the Oberoi (4,4)
- 14 Advantageous purchase (7)
- 16 Tore or scratched? (6)
- 18 Helicopter parts (6)
- 19 Couch potato (5)
- 21 Indian monarch or king (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS L
EWA WADA YIB IFM PX YKK
MA WYOA, YIB PL MA ZKYR PE
DPTWE PE'X YKK MA'KK IAAB.



Linemaro

You are like my compass I'd be lost without you



Mindchow

We are born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse



Joke of the day

After discarding something not used for years, you will need it one week later (Law of Fatal Irreversibility)

Loop

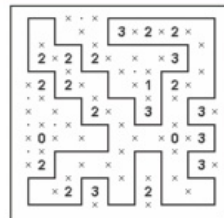
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

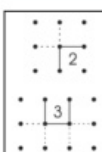
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

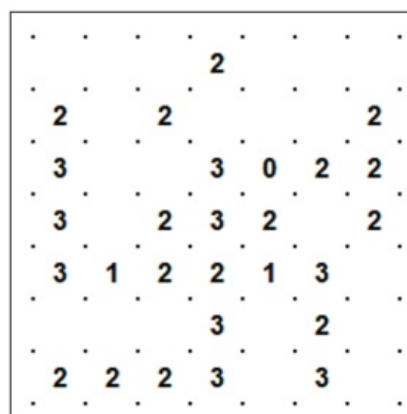
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



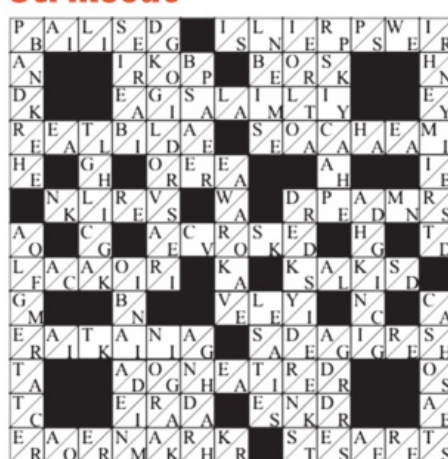
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



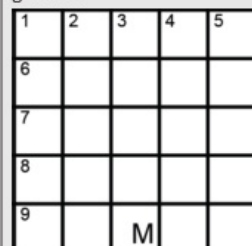
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Acerb; 6 Uli Co;
- 7 I'm Max; 8 Do ere;
- 9 Smite

DOWN

- 1 Comte; 2 I a car;
- 3 Ox Bum; 4 Li Dee;
- 5 Miser

Mensapuzzle

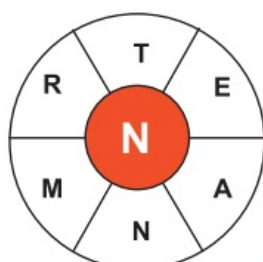
Which number in the bottom line comes next in the top line?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

1 1 3 6 = 9

2 3 7 8 = 6

3 7 9 5 = 23

4 5 10 6 6 5 12 8 5 7 ?

5. Window in door is different. 6. Jacket is longer.

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is moved. 2. Fork is reversed. 3. Napkin is different. 4. Doorway opening is not as wide. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Jacket is longer.

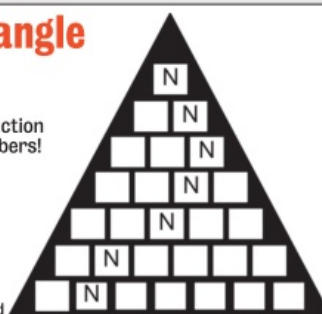
Riddler

What's the missing number?
8 4 5 5 10 6 6 5 12 8 5 7 ?

Alpha triangle

- 1 One of the poles
- 2 Not out
- 3 Transgression
- 4 Trigonometric function
- 5 Well dressed numbers!
- 6 Naval rank
- 7 Locomotives

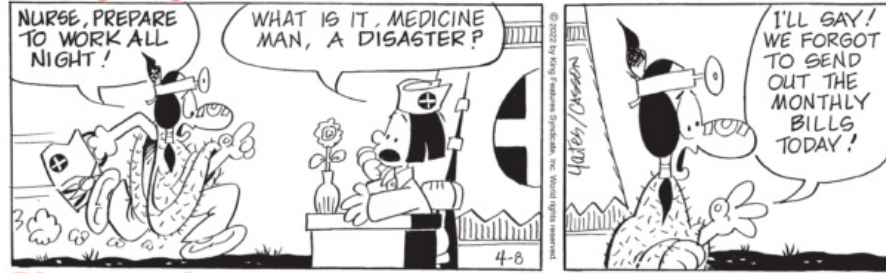
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

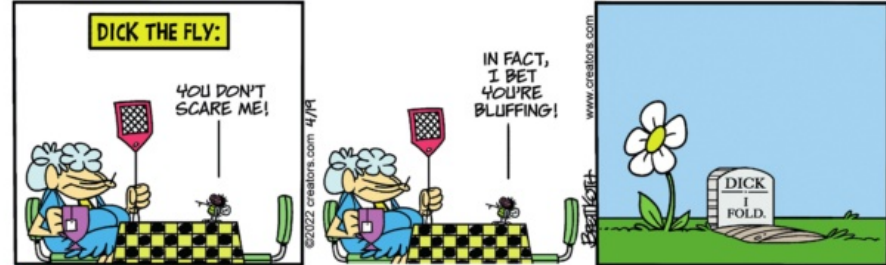
Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may be blessed by the moon. You may be rewarded for your hard work. Your performance on the work front is improving. You may also meet some influential person who will give you direction to improve your life. Domestic issues will be managed easily by you, which can boost harmony.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

You will be busy at work today and your network may be boosted. With the help of your network, you are likely to get a big order and are likely to bring innovation into partnerships. You may get some investments in your business, which will help it grow soon. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will be improved.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today you may be busy with your family and enjoy the time you spend with them. Expect new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may have control over your expenditure on worthless items. However, you can buy some worthwhile things to increase your social status.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Things may be better for you today and you could be feeling happy. You may plan to visit a spiritual place as it could give you inner strength. You may also donate to charity. Expect to hear good news in terms of education or work. Couples may find their match suitable. Singles are likely to find their soulmate.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today you may perform your best in the office. You may have a good bond with the boss and can get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You can expect to get good incentives at work. Disputes with siblings will be resolved now. Job seekers may find work.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

The blessings of elders may help you today and you can try and improve your patience. Your focus may come back and help you to achieve your goals. You are likely to perform well in terms of business and domestic life. There may be some balance between expenditure and savings. It may boost your savings.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today you will feel positive vibrations all around you and things will be under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. Long distance travel might be on the cards. You will have a happy day with your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Children's education could keep you busy today and you may also plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news in terms of children. You can make some plans for higher studies to get a promotion in your current job. Singles can find their soulmate. Those related to education, consultancy, or banking will do better.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today your internal power may make you happy and you may get short gains in terms of investments. You may develop good relations with your boss. Promotions may come knocking. Your prestige in society may be increased. You can also expect work-related travels.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

You may feel dull and unhappy too and that can impact your way of working. There may be some delay in your projects which are to be completed. It may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Lovebirds may face break-ups if they are not careful. Job seekers may be disappointed.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today you may feel dissatisfied and may not be able to handle your responsibilities. Your investments may bring you some loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature. Elder's health may upset you. You can plan to reconstruct your house, but it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today dissatisfaction can come into your mind and make you feel lazy and dull. It can affect your current speed of work. Love birds are advised to avoid any important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of interviews.



KIDZONE



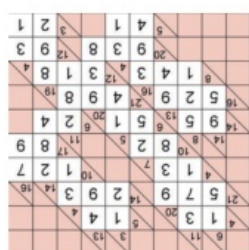
Bharathi G, 14 Years, St. Anthony's School



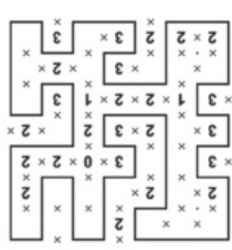
Sidvin Chandan, 6 Years, Millennium World School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

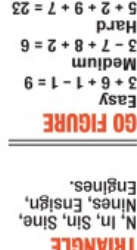
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



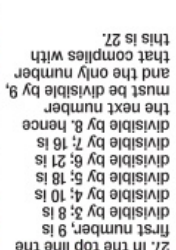
LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



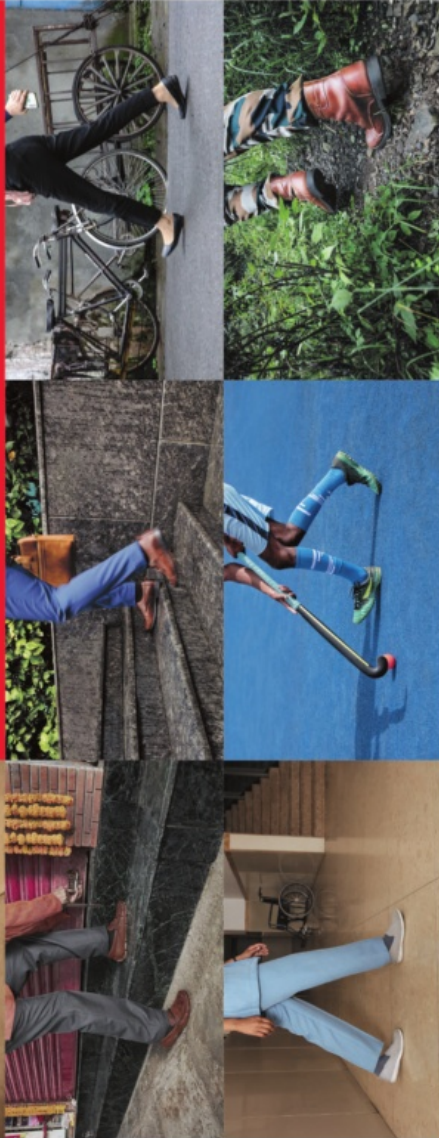
STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNQUOTE



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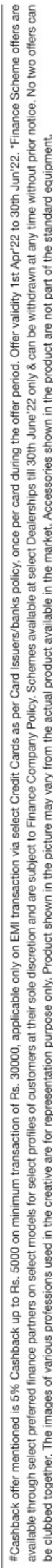
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